



15th Conference
of the
OIE Regional Commission for Africa

Maputo (Mozambique), 18-21 February 2003

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**The importance of livestock identification and movement control
to the promotion of animal disease control and facilitation of trade**

CONSIDERING THAT

Livestock identification and effective movement control are important elements of animal disease control programmes and are also required to support international trade in livestock and livestock products,

Globalisation and the establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and its sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) agreement result in significant changes to the international trading environment in livestock and livestock products to ensure food safety and to reduce the risk of spread of animal diseases; importing countries require evidence of effective disease control and traceability of animals and products to ensure that the risk to animal and public health in their countries is minimised,

In numerous African countries, many List A and B diseases are endemic and animal health services are hampered by inadequate resources and have poor capacity to implement effective animal health programmes, which poses a considerable challenge for disease control and is a major barrier for access to international markets for livestock and their products,

There is considerable variation between regions and sub-regions in Africa and therefore the next step will require a regional approach; this will enable more detailed consideration of all the issues including the needs and capacity of regional livestock systems and the potential for application of the OIE standards including zoning/regionalisation and the principle of equivalence; the approach taken should be to clearly define the objectives of any future work on livestock management and identification and then to use the most practical and cost effective means to achieve the objectives; training of all stakeholders will be required,

A harmonised co-operative approach is needed because most countries have multiple neighbours and there are many legal and illegal movements of livestock within and between countries. In many cases, these movements follow longstanding traditional routes; this will require an integrated approach involving agreed procedures, education, incentives, legislation and penalties when required,

Countries wanting to benefit from increased exports will need to meet market specifications and these include measures for controlling movements and identification of animals and animal products; for countries in this region, cost and cultural acceptability could be major barriers to widespread adoption of identification methods and there is a need to develop effective and practical methods and to negotiate acceptance by other Member Countries,

Implementation of effective systems of livestock movement control and identification requires strong engagement of all stakeholders and this involves planned and coordinated consultation and communication activities,

THE OIE COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Current approaches to livestock identification and animal movement management be reviewed.
2. Member Countries agree to develop standards for livestock identification and animal movement management that are practical and cost effective. Measures to include a balance between education, incentives, legislation and penalties.
3. Member Countries adopt zoning/regionalisation approaches to disease control, where relevant, and work with neighbouring countries to establish harmonised systems of livestock identification and livestock movement management where possible.
4. Neighbouring countries and stakeholder groups be encouraged to engage in the planning and implementation of programmes for livestock identification and movement control.

5. Negotiations be conducted with trading partner countries to gain acceptance of equivalent methods of livestock identification that are applicable and cost effective.
6. The OIE, AU/IBAR and other regional agencies jointly carry out regional workshops to develop regional or sub-regional plans for strengthening livestock identification and animal movement management.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 21 February 2003)

Recommendation No. 2

The role of animal disease control in poverty reduction and food security strategies in Africa

CONSIDERING THAT

Poverty reduction and food security represent the main priorities in Africa and that livestock play a crucial role herein,

Animal diseases are today a major constraint for preserving and developing livestock and present a major threat for poor people, national economies as well as those of neighbouring or importing countries,

National and regional operational capacity and resource allocation are still insufficient for an efficient control of animal diseases,

The socio-economic benefits of animal disease control programmes, in terms of securing assets, veterinary public health, access to formal markets, intensification and economic growth, are perceived as high, but have been insufficiently quantified,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Control of animal diseases listed by the OIE be considered as a 'global public good' and be under the responsibility of the Official Veterinary Services.
2. Greater efforts be made to inform the public, sensitise and convince policy-makers, involve all stakeholders, quantify and prioritise actions for prevention and control of animal diseases and integrate them in national poverty reduction strategy papers.
3. Substantial, appropriate, coordinated and sustained support be provided by the international community in the domain of animal disease prevention and control in Africa for poverty reduction through securing current assets, access to markets and sustainable growth.
4. The Doha Declaration, signed by the President of the World Bank and the Director Generals of the OIE, WTO, FAO and WHO, be followed by the rapid implementation of national and regional programmes for the strengthening of technical, scientific and operational capacities of Veterinary Services in Africa.
5. The donors be encouraged, under the leadership of the OIE, possibly within the framework of ALive, to invest in Veterinary Services, their private partners and in strategic research.
6. A pragmatic and medium-term action plan be set up for measures in policy formulation, institutional and organisational strengthening, research and investment, with a clear and articulated focus on poverty reduction, and access to formal regional and international markets.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 21 February 2003)

Recommendation No. 3

**Support to the African Union for
programmes relating to the control of animal diseases**

CONSIDERING

The draft Agreement signed on 14 September 2001 between the Organisation of African Unity/Inter-African Bureau of Animal Resources (OAU/IBAR) and the Office International des Epizooties (OIE),

The importance of animal production and the benefit of animal disease control programmes in poverty alleviation, as recognised by the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD),

The role of IBAR as a technical agency of the African Union (AU),

The relevance and the need for African countries to comply with OIE standards and guidelines,

The need to eradicate the last foci of rinderpest from the Somali ecosystem,

The urgent need to develop control plans for the priority diseases,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
RECOMMENDS

1. Rapid implementation of the re-organisation of AU/IBAR.
2. Preparation by the IBAR-PACE team of a draft continental comprehensive programme associating the different regional organisations of the continent in accordance with the major orientations set by NEPAD.
3. Extending the PACE programme until December 2006 in accordance with the recommendations of the PACE mid-term Review (January 2003) and of IBAR.
4. Intensifying the actions of Member Countries with a view to complying progressively with international standards and OIE guidelines.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 21 February 2003)

Recommendation No. 4

Livestock production in support of NEPAD objectives

CONSIDERING THAT

Livestock plays an important role in socio-economic development, especially of the poor rural zones, 70% of which depend on livestock for their livelihood,

Livestock is a major contributor to the GDP of most of the African countries,

Veterinary Services contribute significantly to scientific information required for sanitary and zoosanitary measures,

In many African countries, List A and B diseases are endemic and Veterinary Services are hampered by limited resources and scientific capacity for support of policy formulation and standard setting,

THE OIE COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
RECOMMENDS THAT

1. NEPAD consider livestock production as one of the priority areas that can contribute considerably to poverty reduction in Africa.
2. Member Countries mandate the OIE, in collaboration with the AU/IBAR, to make representation at the NEPAD secretariat to highlight the importance of animal disease control in livestock development and poverty reduction and to consider ALive as a priority programme.
3. Member Countries make deliberate efforts to obtain support for institutional manpower development, improved infrastructure and capacity building for livestock development.
4. The OIE in collaboration with regional and sub-regional institutions, lobby for more professional, material and political support for livestock development.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 21 February 2003)